CROSS-CONNECTIONS

A cross-connection is when the public water system's line come in contact with the customer's lines in such a way that could allow contaminates from the customer to flow backwards, or be back-siphoned into the public water system. A good example of how this can happen is if someone is using an attachment on their garden hose to apply chemicals to their lawn. While doing so, their main water line breaks or heavy use from a nearby fire hydrant could create a negative water pressure or vacuum effect at that residence. This could cause a back flow or back siphoning of the lawn chemicals into the residence's plumbing, and even back into the public water supply.

Another cross-connection situation that can happen is when someone uses their garden hose to help unstop a clogged drain or sewer line by submerging the hose into the line while trying to use the water pressure to unstop the line. If a back flow situation developed while this was happening, there is the potential for sewage to be back siphoned into our drinking water supply.

We don't want to alarm anyone. The chances of these situations happening are very small. But when considering the possible consequences, the County's goal is to have a zero chance. The best way you can prevent back flow from your water spigot is to install what is called a vacuum breaker. This device threads on between the water spigot and garden hose. If you lose water pressure it would prevent any back flow by breaking the vacuum effect of a negative water pressure and eliminate any possible back siphoning or flow reversal. Vacuum breakers are not expensive, and can be found at the hardware stores. For your own protection, as well as others, the County recommends that all customers install a vacuum breaker on all outside water spigots. Vacuum breakers may prevent some water spigots and yard hydrants from draining. Please read manufactures recommendations for winter draining or purchase the frost-proof type that self-drains.

Another area of concern regarding cross-connections is anyone that is hooked up to County water and sewer, and is also hooked up to a private well. The situation of having our public water supply hooked directly to an untested water source may not be safe. To ensure that safety of everyone's drinking water, the County has no choice but to require anyone that is connected to the County's water and sewer system have their plumbing physically disconnected from any private well or have an approved back flow prevention device installed to prevent the well from flowing into the County's water system.

Enclosed is a yearly questionnaire to follow the progress of our program. While not required, we would appreciate it, if you would complete and return the survey as soon as possible. Your cooperation is needed for us to have an effective program to eliminate cross-connections in our water system. By working together we can all help keep our drinking water safer.
CROSS-CONNECTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name_________________________________________ Telephone #______________________________

Address____________________________________ City_________ State_______ Zip_________

Property Owner if not current resident:

Name_________________________________________ Telephone #______________________________

Address____________________________________ City_________ State_______ Zip_________

Please check any items that may apply to your premises:

____ outside spigots without vacuum breaker                                    ____ swimming pool
____ animal watering trough                                                    ____ shampoo bowl/sink
____ private well, spring or cistern                                              ____ darkroom/photo development
____ frost-proof spigot with vacuum breaker                                     ____ Jacuzzi/hot tub
____ frost-proof spigot without vacuum breaker                                  ____ lawn irrigation sprinkler system
____ fire protection sprinkler system                                           ____ baptismal pool
____ mop sink/laundry sink/utility sink with hose bib threads                   ____ dye vat
____ steam or hot water heating system                                          ____ carbonated drink machine
____ yard hydrant/yard spigot/standpipe                                          ____ fish pond
____ pressure booster pump                                                      ____ solar heating system
____ dialysis equipment                                                         ____ water storage tank
____ hose end sprayer for fertilizer or other chemicals                         ____ pressure washers

Please offer a brief description of any other items or treatment units connected to the water system on your property:

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

Please list any existing cross connection control devices you have installed and if they appear to be working properly:

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

Any additional comments:

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to:        Carroll County PSA
                                      605-2 Pine Street
                                      Hillsville, VA 24343      Phone # (276)730-3170